

Remarks.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 17 and 18 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the dependent claims 2-13, 15-16 to depend from claim 17 rather than claim 1.

Claims 15-16 have been rejected under 35 USC S 112.

More specifically, the examiner has stated that in claim 15, the plug is not "within the cavity".

Modified claim 15 is dependent on claim 17 which recites "said tube 28 defining a cavity 34 which extends between said first end 30 and said second end 32 of said tube 28..." (numerals added for clarity). Modified claim 15 recites "said plug 36 is disposed within said cavity....". (numerals added for clarity). Furthermore, Fig. 2 clearly shows the plug 36 disposed with said cavity 34 between said first end 30 and said second end 32 of said tube 28. Additionally, in allowed claim 17, the lubricant L is recited as being "disposed within said cavity 34...".

Consequently, Applicant is of the opinion that as shown in Fig. 2, both the lubricant L and the plug 36 are disposed within the cavity 34. If the Examiner's holding that the plug 36 is not "disposed within the cavity" 34 is correct then the lubricant L is also not within the cavity 34. Clearly, this is not the case. Fig. 2 clearly shows both the lubricant L and the plug 36 within the cavity 34 and such is described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the same.

Therefore, Applicant is of the opinion that for at least the above reasons, the rejection of modified claim 15 under Section 112 should be removed.

Claim 16 is dependent on claim 15. Therefore, for at least the above stated reasons, Applicant is of the opinion that the Section 112 rejection of claim 16 has been overcome by the remarks and should therefore be removed.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 USC S103(a) as obvious over US Pat. 2,766,079 to Brown in view of official notice of common knowledge in the art, and/or, in the alternative, engineering design choice.

US Pat. 2,766,079 to Brown teaches a rod end bearing having an axial bore 31 which is used as a lubricant reservoir. Column 4, lines 69-70.

Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and has amended the dependent claims 2-13 and 15-16 to depend from allowed claim 17.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is requested.

By this amendment claims 1 and 14 have been canceled. The dependency of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 15 has been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been indicated to be allowable. Claims 2-13 and 15-18 remain in this application.

Allowance of claims 2-13 and 15-18 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Archer".

David J. Archer.

Reg. 31,076.

Applicants representative.